

URBAN DISTRICT OF DISS.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
and
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR,
for the year 1952.

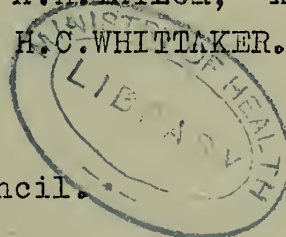
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE 1952/53.

Chairman:- COUNCILLOR L.E.RUSH.

COUNCILLOR H.BARDWELL,*	COUNCILLOR MISS SAUNDERS,
" H.H.W.CANNELL,	" MRS. STEGGLES,
" W.H.CATTERMOLE,	" A.H.TAYLOR, ‡
" C. DENNY,	" H.C.WHITTAKER.

* Chairman of Council.

‡ Vice-Chairman of Council.



ANNUAL REPORT,
OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH, FOR THE
FOR THE YEAR, 1952.

DISS URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1952, which has been prepared according to the instructions issued by the Minister of Health and on the lines of that for 1951.

Statistical information, including vital statistics relating to your district concludes the report.

Staff and Administrative Arrangements.

The Norwich Local Health Office of the County Council which I use as my administrative centre for all purposes, has now been in existence for a year and the benefits of the improved accommodation are noticeable. The offices of areas 1, 4 and 5 are all situated here and at the beginning it was thought that some economy of labour might be effected by pooling some of the work. This did not prove practicable however, and the three areas now run as separate entities. At the conclusion of the year the position regarding clerical assistance for District Council duties remained unaltered. I can add nothing to what I have said on this subject in previous reports and I trust that effective action will soon be taken to settle this long drawn out question.

General Remarks.

There has been a noticeable easing in the general feeling of frustration which was apparent last year. This is still present but judging by the lessening of industrial disputes and the fewer wage claims, the economic climate is healthier and the people more satisfied. In general, the health of your district has remained satisfactory.

Health Education.

In Western Europe the control of epidemic disease and the lowering of the infant mortality rate has resulted in a remarkable lengthening of the expectation of life. Reference to Table 8 which shows the age at which persons died in your community in 1952, shows that the vast majority are 65 and over. Many persons were in their 90's. By contrast, deaths in childhood and adolescence are conspicuous by their absence. Much improvement, however, is still possible in the health of every section of the community. In his report for 1951, Sir John Charles, the Chief Medical Officer of the Ministry of Health, points out that the accent in public health work has moved from environmental hygiene to that of the personal health services and he further states that any progress in future will be increasingly dependent on the active participation of the individual.

It is a truism to say that progress always has and always will be opposed by sectional interest but there is less

recognition of the fact that apathy towards the raising of health standards is widespread among the very persons who stand to benefit most by improvements and that this apathy largely results from the lack of adequate training and education in early life. Active health education will be the most fruitful in ensuring that modern services and knowledge are used to best advantage.

Today the public receives most of its education in health matters from commercial advertising, the form and text of which is dictated by business considerations. Great play is made of common complaints - "rheumatism", "back-ache", "sleeplessness", "nervousness" - most of which are in themselves meaningless terms. Much of the education undertaken by health authorities and voluntary committees, has been directed towards securing the early diagnosis of disease and their posters often seem designed to frighten the individual into seeking early advice on trivial symptoms, by implying the horrors of untreated Venereal Disease, Tuberculosis or Cancer.

Such education if superimposed on a background of ignorance and uninformed public opinion, can be of little use and may result in a great deal of unnecessary psychoneurosis.

Although the recognition of the importance of health education has grown steadily and many countries including our own, have special bodies devoted to it, the fundamental need has largely been passed by. It is the training of the young child in a healthy way of life and the inculcation in him - perhaps indoctrination would be a better word - of a sane and balanced approach to the question of health.

The school is clearly the place for this most important work. Health education should not be a separate part of the ordinary school curriculum - it should be invisibly interwoven into the fabric of what the child is taught and his physical environment should be so designed as to play an unconscious but effective part in the work. Of these, the former is the most important and costs the least money.

Throughout the 70 schools, mostly small, in Area 5, I have seen little evidence that serious attention has been given to integrating health education in the manner described. It appears likely that the training of teachers is itself at fault, for they seldom appear aware of the need for the development of a positive attitude towards health in the school child and there seems to be little guidance coming to them from their superiors in this matter.

Population.

The Registrar General estimates your population at 3,472, an increase of 24 on that of last year. There were 62 live births and 49 deaths, giving a natural increase of 13. There thus appears to have been a slight tendency to move into your district during the year.

Causes of Death.

There were no deaths between the ages of 1 and 40 years and it will be noted that 33 of the 49 were over 70 when they died. These numbers are too small for any deduction to be drawn from the rates derived from them.

The comparative mortality factor for the year was 0.73.

Still Births.

Two still births were recorded compared with none last year and one in 1950.

Infactious Diseases.

Sixty cases were notified during the year, 45 of these being attributed to measles and 12 to whooping cough. A County Scheme for whooping cough immunisation has now been approved by the Ministry and is expected to be in operation early in 1953.

Tuberculosis.

No new cases of tuberculosis were recorded during the year. At the end of the year 19 cases remained on the register compared with 22 at the end of 1951. This is the first year of which I have record that not a single new case of tuberculosis has been discovered.

Immunisation and Vaccination.

Tables 16 and 16a show the state of vaccination of the children in Area 5 as a whole.

During the first year of life there has been a tendency for some falling off in the percentage of children immunised. It should be noted in this connection that the figure given for 1952 is however, incomplete and may be expected to rise considerably when the full records have been collected. Immunisation against Diptheria is effective roughly for a five year period and it is therefore necessary for booster doses to be given at intervals during school life. This work was stepped up during 1952, some 589 booster doses having been given during the year under review. The Council may be interested to know however, that now the Area Health Services are settling down, it has been possible during the first half of 1953 to carry out over 1,000 injections. Although the risk of a child contracting diptheria is now small, this will only remain true so long as a high percentage of the population are immunised and the parents who do not see to it that their children are protected are, in a sense, relying for protection of their children on the good citizenship of others.

Vaccination against Smallpox.

The figure of 61.2% of infants vaccinated is relatively satisfactory and compares very favourably with the national figures as well as those of Area 5. It is the usual practice for the family doctor to vaccinate infants when he carries out the post-natal examination on the mother six weeks after birth.

National Assistance Act, 1947, Section 47.

During the year action was taken in one case under this Section.

The case in question was that of a man aged 80 who was living alone in filthy and neglected circumstances and who refused to enter a County Home voluntarily. A Magistrate's Order was applied for after every effort had been made to secure voluntary entry, without success. Once in the Home, I understand he settled down very well and is quite happy there. The Welfare Officer who visited him shortly after admission, said that he looked 20 years younger. I would take this opportunity

to draw attention to the provisions of this Section which requires that suitable accommodation shall be available before a Magistrate can make an Order for removal.

This is in contrast to the arrangements for the removal of certified mental cases where an Institution is directed to receive the patient. Although in this case I had every co-operation from the County Welfare Authorities in making accommodation available, it seems to me that it would be possible for a situation to arise in which an Institution refused to make a bed available and the Magistrate would therefore be unable to make an Order, thus defeating the aim of the Section.

Housing.

During the year 26 new houses were completed. In October, 1952, the housing application list was revised and there were 136 applications on the new list.

The difficulty in allocating houses according to greatest need has been somewhat reduced by reporting the current circumstances of applicants to the Committee prior to the Committee meeting. This ensures that candidates who are not known to members have full consideration and all members have full details before them.

Housing Survey.

Some progress has been made in this very important job during the year and records of some 314 houses are now available out of the 1,232 buildings in the district.

Because of the necessity of fitting in the work with routine duties the Housing Survey has not been carried out systematically and it is certain that in the figures given in this report, the percentage of poor houses is much higher than it is in the town as a whole. The true position will not be known however, until the survey is complete.

The Council should take note that to date, 82 have been placed in Grade 5 and 203 in Grade 3. A Grade 5 house is, in the opinion of your officers, unfit for human habitation and cannot be made fit at reasonable cost. In other words it is fit only for demolition. Grade 3 houses require major repairs to bring them up to a reasonable standard.

In my Annual Report for 1950, I drew attention to the adverse effect of the Rent Restriction Acts on the poorer property in the district and particularly on houses which fall into Grade 3. The Council will probably remember one case in which a house was repairable at a cost of some £150. but the owner, had he expended this money, could not have hoped to see it back in under 100 years, because of the restriction imposed on the rent.

My statement of 1950 still remains true, i.e. "The Rent Restriction Acts are seriously interfering with the working of important sections of the Housing and Public Health Acts - legislation which is the outcome of 100 years of progress in the care of the health of the public."

I regret that I still have to report that the almshouses at Victoria Road are still in the same dilapidated condition and that to the best of my knowledge, the whole future of the almshouses and the site on which they stand is still in the same state

of suspended animation as it was when I drew attention to it last year.

The Sanitary Inspector at my request has included in his subjoined report, a statement on overcrowding and I refer the Council to his remarks on this subject.

It will be seen that during the year, although no cases of statutory overcrowding were known to exist, nine cases of overcrowding on a bedroom standard came to the notice of the Department during the year. Two of these were abated by the Council's action, two were abated by action of the occupiers themselves and five cases were still outstanding at the end of the year.

I fully endorse the statement that the adoption by the Council for practical purposes of the bedroom standard of overcrowding would be a progressive step. It need only be pointed out that 10 persons may occupy a three bedroomed council house before an offence is committed to show how low is the legal standard set.

Sewage Disposal.

The Council is well aware that the present sewage arrangements are inadequate but the provision of a new sewage works is well under way.

Conservancy.

The Council will note with satisfaction, the remarks of the Sanitary Inspector dealing with conservancy which is now carried out under contract.

The arrangement is working very well and the cost appears to be less than under the direct scheme which the contract replaced.

As the new sewage system comes into operation and more pails are dispensed with, the relative benefit is likely to increase, as your Sanitary Inspector has pointed out.

Meat Inspection.

There has been a further increase in the number of animals slaughtered in the Diss Slaughterhouse. This work occupies a considerable portion of your Sanitary Inspector's time much of it in the evenings and weekends. I drew attention last year to the unsuitability of the building and this is aggravated by the increased killing.

The Council will note that animals are often brought long distances to be slaughtered which seems an unsatisfactory state of affairs.

I would like to express my thanks to Council members for their co-operation, to Mr.C.R.Williamson, and Mr.D.J.Hewett, and other officers of the Council for their willing assistance and to the staff of my County Office, for the very considerable time and help they have given me in the preparation of this report.

A.E.BROWN.

M.D., B.S., D.P.H.

TABLE 1. GENERAL STATISTICS.

AREA (In Acres)	3,628.
Estimated Resident Population	3,472.
Rateable Value	£ 21,086.
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£ 82.15.0.

TABLE 2. LIVE BIRTHS.

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate	33.	29.	62.
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Total	33.	29.	62.

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population

Diss Urban District . . .	17.85.
Area 5.	15.6.

TABLE 3. STILL BIRTHS.

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate	1.	1.	2.
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Total	1.	1.	2.

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total Births:

Diss Urban District . . .	31.25.
Area 5.	28.08.

TABLE 4. DEATHS (all ages).

<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
24.	25.	49.

Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated Resident Population:

Diss Urban District . . .	14.1.
Area 5.	12.6.

TABLE 5. INFANT MORTALITY (Deaths of Infants under One year).

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate	2.	-	2.
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Total	2.	-	2.

Infant Mortality per 1,000 Live Births:

Diss Urban District . . .	32.2.
Area 5.	28.8.

NOTE:

Area 5 comprises Depwade and Loddon Rural Districts,
and Diss and Wymondhan Urban Districts.

TABLE 6.

CAUSE OF DEATH OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR.

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
32. Other defined and ill-defined causes. Prenaturity.	2.	-	2.
Total	2.	-	2.

TABLE 7.

CAUSE OF TOTAL DEATHS (Registrar-General).

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory,	-	-	-
2. Tuberculosis, other	-	-	-
3. Syphilitic disease	1	1	2
4. Diphtheria	-	-	-
5. Whooping Cough,	-	-	-
6. Meningococcal infections,	-	-	-
7. Acute poliomyelitis,	-	-	-
8. Measles,	-	-	-
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases,	-	-	-
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach,	-	-	-
11. Malignant neoplasm, Lung bronchus	2	-	2
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast;	-	-	-
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus,	-	-	-
14. Other malignant and Lymphatic neoplasms	5	3	8
15. Leukoemia, Aleukemia,	-	-	-
16. Diabetes,	1	-	1
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	2	4	6
18. Coronary disease, angina	1	2	3
19. Hypertension with heart disease	5	7	12
20. Other heart diseases,	1	3	4
21. Other circulatory disease,	-	-	-
22. Influenza,	-	-	-
23. Pneumonia,	-	2	2
24. Bronchitis,	1	-	1
25. Other diseases of respiratory system,	-	-	-
26. Ulcer of stomach & duodenum,	1	-	1
27. Gastritis, enteritis & diarrhoea,	-	1	1
28. Nephritis, and nephrosis,	-	-	-
29. Hyperplasia of prostate,	1	-	1
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion,	-	-	-
31. Congenital malformations,	-	-	-
32. Other defined & ill-defined diseases,	3	2	5
33. Motor Vehicle accidents,	-	-	-
34. All other accidents,	-	-	-
35. Suicide,	-	-	-
36. Homicide & operations of War,	-	-	-
Total	24.	25.	49.

TABLE 8. NOTIFICATIONS OF DEATHS RECEIVED DURING THE YEAR
1952, (According to Age Groups).

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Under 1 year,	2	-	2
1 and under 5.	-	-	-
5 and under 10.	-	-	-
10 " " 20.	-	-	-
20 " " 30.	-	-	-
30 " " 40.	-	-	-
40 " " 50.	2	1	3
50 " " 60.	2	1	3
60 " " 70.	5	3	8
70 " " 80.	9	10	19
80 " " 90.	4	7	11
90 " " 100	-	3	3
100 and over	-	-	-
Total	24.	25.	49.

TABLE 9. SUMMARY OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS RATES.

	<u>1947</u>	<u>1948</u>	<u>1949</u>	<u>1950</u>	<u>1951</u>	<u>1952.</u>
<u>Live Births (per 1,000</u> <u>Pop.)</u>				(51)	(58)	(62)
Diss Urban District,	15.9	15.2	10.3	14.0	16.8	17.8
Area 5.	18.6	15.7	14.5	14.9	15.4	15.6
England and Wales,	20.5	17.9	16.7	15.8	15.5	15.3
<u>Still Births (Per 1,000</u> <u>total Births).</u>				(1)	Nil.	(2)
Diss Urban District,	18.8	18.5	28.0	19.2	0.0	31.2
Area 5.	27.8	30.4	27.0	23.0	26.8	28.0
England and Wales,	-	-	-	-	-	22.6
<u>Crude Deaths (per 1,000</u> <u>Pop.)</u>				(50)	(55)	(49)
Diss Urban District,	12.3	16.35	16.09	13.7	15.9	14.1
Area 5.	12.7	12.9	13.3	12.1	14.0	12.6
England and Wales,	12.0	10.8	11.7	11.6	12.5	11.3
<u>Infant Mortality (per</u> <u>1,000 live births).</u>				(Nil)	(nil)	(2) (2)
Diss Urban District,	0.0	56.6	0.0	0.0	34.5	32.2
Area 5.	32.4	31.8	21.0	14.5	27.5	28.8
England and Wales,	41.0	34.0	32.0	29.8	29.6	27.6

NOTE: Figures given in brackets are the actual numbers for
Diss Urban District.

Table 10.

BIRTH-RATES, DEATH-RATES, ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY, MATERNAL MORTALITY AND CASE-RATES FOR CERTAIN INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN THE YEAR 1952. PROVISIONAL FIGURES BASED ON QUARTERLY RETURNS.

	England & Wales	160 County Boroughs & Great Towns (including LONDON)	160 smaller Towns (Resident pop. 25,000 - 50,000 at 1951 Cens.)	Area 5
<u>BIRTHS.</u>	Rates per 1,000 Home Pop.			
Live births	15.3	16.9	15.5	15.6
Still births	0.35	0.43	0.36	0.45
	22.6(a)	24.6(a)	23.0(a)	28.0(a)
<u>DEATHS.</u>				
All Causes	11.3	12.1	11.2	12.6
Typhoid and paratyphoid	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Diphtheria	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tuberculosis	0.24	0.28	0.22	0.11
Influenza	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.00
Smallpox	0.00	-	-	0.00
Acute poliomyelitis (in- cluding polioencephalitis)	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00
Pneumonia	0.47	0.52	0.43	0.27
<u>NOTIFICATIONS (CORRECTED)</u>				
Typhoid fever	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Paratyphoid fever	0.02	0.02	0.03	0.00
Meningococcal infection	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.00
Scarlet fever	1.53	1.75	1.58	0.93
Whooping Cough	2.61	2.74	2.57	2.54
Diphtheria	0.01	0.01	0.03	0.02
Erysipelas	0.14	0.15	0.12	0.15
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Measles	8.86	10.11	8.49	11.88
Pneumonia	0.72	0.80	0.62	1.13
Acute poliomyelitis (in- cluding polioencephalitis)				
Paralytic	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.02
Non-Paralytic	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.05
Food-poisoning	0.13	0.16	0.11	0.21
Puerperal pyrexia	17.87(a)	23.94(a)	10.22(a)	4.68 (a)
	Rate per 1,000 Live Births			
<u>Deaths</u>				
All causes under 1 year of age	27.6(b)	31.2	25.8	28.89
Enteritis and diarrhoea under 2 years of age	1.1	1.3	0.5	3.06

MATERNAL MORTALITY IN ENGLAND & WALES

Intermediate List No. and cause.	Number of Deaths	Rates per 1,000 total (live & Still Births)	Rates Per Mill. women aged 15- 44
All 15 Sepsis of pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium	61	0.09	-

(Continued overleaf)

MATERNAL MORTALITY IN ENGLAND & WALES (continued).

Intermediate List No. and Cause.	No. of Deaths	Rates total	per 1,000 Live & Still Births	Rates per mill. women aged 15-44
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A116	Abortion with toxæmia	13	0.02	1
	Other toxæmias of pregnancy and the puerperium	147	0.21	--
A117	Haemorrhage of pregnancy & childbirth	59	0.09	-
A118	Abortion without mention of sepsis or toxæmia	31	0.04	3
A119	Abortion with sepsis	47	0.07	5
A120	Other complications of pregnancy, childbirth and the perperium	138	0.20	-

(a) Per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births.

(b) Per 1,000 related live births.

TABLE 11. NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES (EXCLUDING TUBERCULOSIS (According to Age Groups)).

	Under 1.	1-2 yrs.	3-4 yrs.	5-9 yrs.	10-14 yrs.	15-24 yrs.	Over 25	Total
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Measles	1	5	7	30	1	-	1	45
Whooping Cough	1	3	1	5	-	-	2	12
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Pneunonia	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Total	2	8	8	37	1	-	4	60.

TABLE 12. INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES DURING 1952 (Other than Tuberculosis).

	Quarters.				Total.
	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	
Scarlet Fever,	-	-	-	1	1
Measles,	1	7	37	7	45
Whooping Cough,	-	8	2	2	12
Erysipelas,	-	1	-	-	1
Pneunonia,	-	-	-	1	1
Total	1	16	39	4	60

TABLE 13. TUBERCULOSIS (Details of New Cases during 1952).

<u>Age Period.</u>	<u>Pulmonary</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary.</u>	
	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>
0-4	-	-	-	-
5-14	-	-	-	-
15-24	-	-	-	-
25-34	-	-	-	-
35-44	-	-	-	-
45-54	-	-	-	-
55-64	-	-	-	-
65-	-	-	-	-
Total	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil.

TABLE 14. TUBERCULOSIS (Number of Cases on T.B. Register ended 1952).

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Pulmonary,	10.	6.	16.
Non-Pulmonary,	1.	2.	3.
Total	11.	8.	19.

TABLE 15. DETAILS OF NEW CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS FOR LAST 5 YEARS.

		1948	1949	1950	1951	1952.
Pulmonary	M			1	2	-
	F			1	2	-
		3	4			
Non-Pulmonary	M			1	-	-
	F			2	-	-
Total		3	4	5	4	-
Area 5. Total		25	34	31	36	43.

TABLE 16. DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

The following is the number of notifications of primary and booster injections received during the last 3 years in respect of Area No. 5.

	<u>Primary Injections.</u>		<u>Booster Injections.</u>	
	<u>Under 5.</u>	<u>Age 5-14.</u>	<u>Under 5.</u>	<u>Age 5-14.</u>
1952,	371	95	15	589.
1951,	460	70	9	178.
1950,	487	100	6	447
Totals	1318	265	30	1214.

TABLE 16(a).

The state of diptheria immunisation in Area No. 5. of children born during the years 1949 to 1952, is shown in the following Table.

	<u>Area No. 5.</u>			
	1949.	1950.	1951.	1952.
No. of live births registered,	616	590	617	623.
No. of Diptheria Imm. recorded,	355	380	340	110.
Percentage immunised,	57.6	64.4	55.1.	17.6.

TABLE 17. VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX.

The state of vaccination of children born during the years 1949 to 1952 resident in the District and in Area 5, is shown in the following Table.

	<u>DISS U.D.</u>				<u>AREA 5.</u>			
	<u>1949</u>	<u>1950</u>	<u>1951</u>	<u>1952</u>	<u>1949</u>	<u>1950</u>	<u>1951</u>	<u>1952</u>
No. of live births registered,	35	51	58	62	616	590	617	623.
No. of vaccinations recorded,	19	29	31	38	349	345	377	342
Percentage vaccinated,	54.2	56.8	53.4	61.2	56.6	58.4	61.1	54.8.

TABLE 18. DEATHS DUE TO CANCER (DISS U.D.)

	<u>1947</u>	<u>1948</u>	<u>1949</u>	<u>1950</u>	<u>1951</u>	<u>1952.</u>
Number of Deaths,	4	13	13	7	5	10
Percentage of total,	9.5	23.2	20.3	14.0	9.0	20.4.

TABLE 18(a). DEATHS DUE TO CANCER (AREA 5.).

	<u>1947</u>	<u>1948</u>	<u>1949</u>	<u>1950</u>	<u>1951</u>	<u>1952.</u>
Number of deaths,	59	83	82	84	86	82
Percentage of Total Deaths	11.7	16.9	16.8	17.3	15.3	16.3

URBAN DISTRICT OF DISS.

A N N U A L R E P O R T

OF THE

SANITARY INSPECTOR.

YEAR, 1952.

SANITARY INSPECTION.

During the year ending 31st December, 1952, a total of 1,378 visits and inspections have been made in connection with Public Health duties, and they are summarised as follows:-

COMPLAINTS AND NUISANCES.

No. of complaints received and recorded	91.
No. of nuisances found to exist	42.
No. of Preliminary notices served	24.
No. of Statutory notices served	1.
No. of Nuisances abated	16.
No. of Preliminary notices abated	14.

INSPECTIONS.

Water Supply	13.
Pest Control	93.
Rag Flock Act	4.
Salvage	15.
Petroleum Acts	7.
Out-workers	1.
Factories	26.
Workshops	1.
Infectious Disease	24.
Public Cleansing	107.
Drainage	43.
Conservancy	53.
Public Health and Housing Acts,	154.
ditto with Medical Officer	4.
Shops Acts	43.
Markets	93.
Tents, Vans, Sheds and Moveable Dwellings	14.
Miscellaneous	93.
Regional Slaughterhouse	440.
Food Premises	126.
Places of Entertainment	17.
Public Conveniences	7.

Total 1378.

Improvements carried out as result of notices served.

	<u>No. of premises affected.</u>
Drainage systems cleared and repaired	12.
Dustbins provided	7.
Nuisance from keeping of animals abated	1.
Shops (Sanitary or other arrangements improved or provided) ..	1.
Dampness remedied	1.
Sanitary Conveniences repaired or improved	1.
W.C. and sink connections repaired	1.
Rooms disinfected	3.
Verminous houses cleansed	1.
Leaking roofs and gutters repaired	1.
External brickwork repointed or repaired	1.
Total	<u>30.</u>

HOUSING.

INSPECTIONS.

During the year a total of 158 visits and inspections were made to dwellings in connection with Overcrowding, Disrepair and other matters, these visits resulting in the service of one Statutory Notice, all others being settled by personal and informal action.

Housing Survey.

The Survey is still going ahead - some difficulty is experienced in fitting it in with routine work but up till the end of the year, roughly one third of the district has been fully surveyed. The results are as follows:-

<u>Grade 1.</u>	<u>Grade 2.</u>	<u>Grade 3.</u>	<u>Grade 5.</u>	
2.	27.	203.	82.	<u>Total, 314.</u>

From these figures, with a percentage of roughly 26% in Grade 5, it will be seen there is a heavy backlog of housing clearance to be done. A job which must be tackled in the near future if it is not to get out of hand. When one bears in mind that there are some 17 houses with demolition orders on them still occupied, and a further 20 which have been represented as unfit in the years since 1939, you are left with a figure of 119 houses which require Housing Act action, and only one third of the district has been surveyed. The present rate of rehousing whilst admirable is just not getting to the root of this problem and the Council should consider what action can be taken to deal with this problem.

ACCOMMODATION.

With-in the Urban District there are 1232 inhabited dwellings, 31 of which are Farm dwellings. In addition there is a very small number of habitable properties vacant. The total number of Council dwellings is 244 permanent, 4 temporary, giving a total of 248. This proportion is likely to increase through the years, with the possible result that the Council will find itself the major landlord.

OVERCROWDING.

At the beginning of the year there were no known cases of Statutory overcrowding, this is probably due, as much as anything to the low standard of the Overcrowding Regulations, which take into consideration all living rooms as well as bedrooms. This situation has not altered at the end of the year, however I would point out that I can only refer to known cases, there may be some I am not aware of.

However, I have kept a record during the year if those families which would be overcrowded if the Council adopted the principle of including only bedrooms in deciding overcrowding. This of course would have no statutory meaning, but would be useful in dealing with housing applications. The figures are as follows:-

Cases found overcrowded on bedroom standard:	9.
Cases abated by L.A.	2.
Cases abated privately	2.
Cases outstanding 31.12.1952	5.

I would emphasise again that there may be other cases, and if I could be informed when people claim to be overcrowded it would enable me to check this and keep the list up to date. It may be as well here to give the legal definition:-

Housing Act, 1936, Sec.58(1). A dwellinghouse shall be deemed for the purpose of this Act, to be overcrowded at any time when the number of persons sleeping in it either:-

(a) is such that any two of those persons, being ten years old or more of opposite sexes and not living together as husband and wife, MUST sleep in the same room, or,

(b) is, in relation to the number and floor area of the rooms of which the house consists, in excess of the Permitted No. of persons as defined in the Fifth Schedule of this Act

"Room" includes any room normally used in the district for living or sleeping purposes.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

A small number of caravans have been stationed in the district from time to time, but only two sites have been licenced during the year, for three caravans. To encroach on 1953, one licence has lapsed, and on the other site there is only one caravan. In both cases, the sanitary arrangements were suitable and sufficient. So far, we have been lucky and have not suffered from any heavy influx of caravans, with its consequent problems. One application was refused with regard to a licence for Fair Green, this follows an agreed policy of the Council, and the vehicle has been removed. A total of 14 visits were made in this connection.

WATER SUPPLY.

Mains Supply.

The mains water supplies to the town during 1952 continued to be highly satisfactory, eight samples were taken

and in all cases the result was "Highly Satisfactory". Work is going ahead on the new plant, and its completion will see Diss with an excellent supply.

Well Supplies.

During the year 7 samples of water were taken from taps or pumps with supply from shallow wells for the purpose of bacteriological analysis and were reported as follows:-

Satisfactory 5.
Unsatisfactory 2.

In regard to the unsatisfactory samples steps have now been taken to clean these wells, and prevent further pollution by rendering them, and further samples were satisfactory.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

Water-borne.

The present sewage disposal works is not capable or sufficient to deal with the flow now reaching it from the town's sewers, with the result that a very poor effluent is reaching the River Waveney. However, now that work has started on the new works and plant, it is certain that when they are completed, the result will be vastly improved effluent.

Conservancy.

The year 1952 has seen the completion of a years work with the new method of dealing with night soil and cesspools - by contract with Messrs Tovey Transport Ltd. The contractor empties all pails once a week, and all cesspools and vaults twice a year at cost of 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. per house to the U.D.C. Additional vault and cess-pool cleansings are charged at 15/- per load. The figures at present are:-

Privy vaults ... 32.
Pail Closets ... 290.
Cesspools 12.
334.

In addition 9 pail closets situated in the Depwade R.D.C.'s. area are emptied each, under the contract, at a charge of £2.10.0d. per annum to the occupants.

The work has proceeded smoothly and very satisfactorily through the year, and the benefits of the change will only be exceeded when the new sewer is constructed and house drains connected up, an action which is long overdue in such a flourishing market town.

REFUSE DISPOSAL & SALVAGE COLLECTION.

Refuse.

The closing of the year saw the completion of two years service with the new vehicle - 7 cu.yd. Thames side loader. A fairly satisfactory year, though weather did hold up the collectors early on in the year. I would point out to the Committee that with only two collectors one of whom is also the driver, there is very little allowance for hold-ups or Bank Holidays.

Perhaps, sometime in the future, taking into consideration the growth of the town, and the desirability of a weekly collection, some thought could be given to the employment of another collector. With present staff it is very difficult to maintain anything more than a collection every 8 or 9 days.

During the year the vehicle travelled approx. 3410 miles, used 454 galls. of petrol, giving an average of roughly 7.5 miles per gall. This is a poor figure but as has been previously reported, was taken into consideration when the vehicle was purchased by this Committee. A smaller engine would have done the work in this district equally efficiently and shown a better m.p.g.

A total weight of approx. 1134 tons of refuse has been disposed of during the year - an average of 94 tons 10 cwts., p.month this is again above the comparable figure of refuse with the old vehicle. This taken into consideration with the increased number of bins being emptied, and the hope of adding the Diss Heywood to our regular collection, and once weekly collections gives support to the need for another collector.

Total no. of bins emptied each round (8/9 days)	1,319.
Total no. of bins supplied under Sect. 75	
P.H.Act 1936 during 1952 ..	7.
Total no. of bins supplied under this scheme ...	72.
Total no. of bins in stock ready for issue,	
new ..	10.
part used	1.
Total stock ..	<u>11.</u>

The tipping site, hired for £15. per annum, has, as far as is possible, been kept clean and free from rodents. During the later part of 1953 it will be necessary for a new tip to be obtained, the present tip having a life of about 9 or 10 months. This might well be a problem, as tips near Diss and easily available, are not numerous. Every mile travelled away puts up the cost and cuts working time on the round.

Salvage.

This is, unfortunately, not such a happy picture, early in the year the market fell heavily, price dropped from £6. per ton to £3. and we have no control over prices. The demand fell, the position was so bad that, as you know, an increase in the rates at the half-year became necessary to meet the drop in our estimated income from the sale of salvage. It became necessary to curtail our collections from business premises to "request calls" only - the household paper being collected in order to keep it off the tip and avoid any nuisance. This drop was on a national basis and to quote the Annual Report of the Waste Paper Recovery Association, was due to "the restrictions of exports, coupled with excess of stock at the mills, and depots, causing a sudden and severe drop in the demand for paper". It is to be hoped that 1953 will see a recovery in the situation.

The paper collected weighed 26 ton 12 cwt. 3 qrs., and produced approx. £80. on the calendar year, a very big drop on 1951. The paper is sold to Messrs Richardson's Ltd., of Norwich, who collect from the Council Depot.

Once again, thanks have to be given to Councillors Rush and Gaze for their assistance in providing cover and trailer on loan to the Council.

FACTORIES AND OUTWORKERS.

Factories.

During the year 26 visits of inspection were made to premises registered as Factories under the Factories Act, 1937. As the result of these visits, conditions were found to be satisfactory, and only in one case was it necessary to serve an informal notice for want of cleanliness in a sanitary convenience, at the close of the year this matter was receiving the attention of the owner.

The number of factories is as follows:-

46 Factories with Mechanical Power.
6 Factories without Mechanical Power.

Outworkers.

During the year 1 visit of inspection was made to premises registered under Sec. 110 of the Factories Act as "Outworker Premises" Conditions in the premises concerned were both sufficient and suitable.

Number of notifications received during year ... 1.
Number of persons registered 1.
Type of outwork "the weaving of any textile fabric".

RODENT CONTROL.

At the beginning of the year some difficulty was found in keeping up with the work of this section due to the long illness of the part-time operator. However, on taking up my appointment I was lucky enough to obtain the services of Mr. F. Burrows, a retired gamekeeper, who had come to live in the town. Mr. Burrows carries out the work on a part-time basis, at 2/6d. per hour. Mr. Burrows has carried out his duties in a most satisfactory manner, and I have heard nothing but praise from the townspeople for the way he carries out his duties. A certain amount of the success in this respect must also go to the representative of the Infestation Control Division of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Mr. Newlands, for the work at Ministry properties in this district. Excellent co-operation has been received on Block Control schemes whenever required.

During the year a total of 93 inspections were made, and at 28 properties treatment was carried out. Treatment of the sewers was carried out in October, with a satisfactory result, 29 manholes were baited and at three of them positive results were obtained. Further treatment has given clear results. The treatment was carried out over three days with the assistance of one of Mr. Jennings' staff.

Full details are given in the following report:-

REPORT OF TREATMENT & INSPECTIONS FOR YEAR ENDING 31st DEC. 1952.

Properties.	Local Auth.	Dwelling Houses.	Agricul- tural.	Business & Indust	Total.
Total No. of properties in District.	5.	1257.	34.	89.	1385.

Properties.	Local Auth.	Dwelling Houses.	Agricul- tural.	Business & Indust.	Total.
No. of inspections as result of -	a) -	17	-	9	26.
a) notification.	b) 5	56	3	3	67.
b) otherwise.					
No. of properties found infested with rats -	a) 1	-	-	-	1.
a) Major.	b) -	13	3	7	23.
b) Minor.					
No. of properties found infested with mice -	-	-	-	5	5.
No. of infested properties treated -	1	13	3	11	28.

No. of "Block Control" schemes carried out 1.

As a result of inspections of business premises one informal notice was served for treatment and the occupier/owner made private arrangements to have his property treated, this was done in a satisfactory manner. Work carried out at business premises is charged for 10/- first treatment, 5/- follow-up treatment. Dwellinghouses are treated free. Agricultural premises - 3d. per point.

SHOPS.

During the year a total of 43 visits/inspections were made in connection with the Shops Acts 1934-50.

The sanitary circumstances of the shops in Diss, i.e. water closets, heating, lighting, ventilation, washing facilities are all satisfactory. In some cases, particularly in Mere St., it has been necessary to issue "Exemption Certificates" under Shops Act, due to restricted accommodation. At premises where these are in force, 12 in all, alternative arrangements have to be made for the use of sanitary conveniences and/or washing facilities.

PETROLEUM STORAGE REGULATIONS.

During the year a total of 7 visits were made in connection with the administration of the above Regulations. There has been little change in the circumstances in Diss, two new licences have been issued for storage tanks, and quantities stored have altered in two cases.

The number of licences issued annually is 29, they are subject to a statutory fee, according to amounts stored, this fee is paid into Council's account, the total amount is £24.5.0d. per annum. The total quantity of Petroleum Spirit and other Oils stored is in the region of 54,650 gallons.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.
DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION.

Infectious Disease and Disinfection.

The routine work in connection with infectious disease appears to be on the decline in Diss, a very welcome thing, showing the general rise in the standard of health in the district.

Number of visits made during 1952	19.
ditto 1951	14.
ditto 1950	66.

During the year Terminal Disinfection was carried out to one premise by reason of -

Scarlet Fever (Home Nursed) .. 1.

Disinfestation.

Only one dwelling was fumigated in connection with the eradication of vermin. This arose from the removal of an aged person to a Welfare Home in the early part of the year.

MILK, DAIRIES AND FOOD PREMISES.

Milk.

Number of Premises registered as Dairies	3.
Number of Licences issued under the Milk (Special Designation)(Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949,	4.
(Principal Dealer's 1)	
(Supplementary Dealer's 3)	
Number of Licences issued under the Milk (Special Designation)(Heat Treated Milk) Regs. 1949	5.
(Principal Dealer's 3)	
(Supplementary Dealer's 2).	

In general the milk supplies in Diss have been satisfactory during the year.

Ice-Cream. Food and Drugs Act 1938, Sec.14.

Number of premises registered for the sale, or manufacture for sale, of ice-cream, or the storage of ice-cream for sale - 14.

There is one manufacturer in Diss, and inspections through the year have shown a good standard of hygiene in all respects.

Five samples of ice-cream were taken in the year for bacteriological examination, results were as follows:-

Grade i .. 4.	Grade 3. .. 1.
---------------	----------------

Other Food stuffs.

No. of premises registered for the preparation of preserved foods	14.
Number of premises/persons licenced to Deal in Game	4.
Total number of food premises - all types	43.
Total number of visits to food premises and stalls	219.

General Food Hygiene.

The operation of the Clean Food Bye-laws in Diss is fairly satisfactory by all local food traders, it has been found that the use of detergents and chemical sterilising methods for washing up has increased, with a corresponding increase in the standard of hygiene.

Condemnations.

During the year the following quantities of food were voluntarily surrendered by traders in the town, and condemned by me, as "Unfit for Human Consumption". Certificates were issued in each case:-

Tinned meats	121 lbs	7 $\frac{1}{2}$ ozs.
Tinned Fruits	776 lbs	14 ozs.
Tinned Fish	3 lbs	8 $\frac{1}{2}$ ozs.
Tinned Vegetables	15 lbs	5 ozs.
Tinned Milk	5 lbs	4 ozs.
Chocolate	3 lbs	2 ozs.
Fresh Meat	45 lbs	0 ozs.

These have been disposed of by burying in a deep part of the refuse pit, or, on certain occasions, Messrs Aldrich and Bryant have been kind enough to allow me to use their incinerator.

SLAUGHTERHOUSE AND MEAT INSPECTION.

Diss is a slaughtering centre under the Memoranda issued by the Ministry in 1940, and this centralising order has resulted in this Authority being responsible for the meat inspection of a far larger area, to wit,

Depwade R.D.C.	21,657.
Hartismere "	18,352.
Eye B.C.	1,733.

Of the meat inspected only 26% is consumed here, the remainder is issued as follows:- Depwade 40%, Hartismere and Eye 34%. The meat inspection is carried out solely by your Sanitary Inspector, and has resulted in the working of a great deal of extra hours, on many occasions at week-ends. In view of the fact that this building was used solely for one butcher, and now caters for such a large area, with little improvement in its structure or condition, I can only repeat what has been said before, that, even allowing for financial stringencies, the present building is poorly situated, too small, out of date, and generally unsatisfactory for dealing with such large numbers as it has to do. A new building, with possibly extra slaughtermen, would improve the work, hygiene, and cut down the late hours.

During the year 440 visits were made in connection with meat inspection.

Number of animals inspected.

<u>Year.</u>	<u>Cattle.</u>	<u>Pigs.</u>	<u>Sheeps.</u>	<u>Calves.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
1952.	1549.	1891.	1856.	1165.	6461.
1951.	1632.	1401.	1633.	1046.	5712.
1950.	1450.	360.	2019.	994.	4823.
1949.	645.	2213.	735.	132.	3725.

The figures for 1939 are given to show the increase in kill today over the last year of free slaughtering, this is with no increase in the number of meat inspectors, and is being done in one building not five, as in 1939.

Total Condemnations of Meat.

<u>1952.</u>	<u>Meat.</u>				<u>Offal.</u>			
	Tons.	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.	Tons	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.
Tuberculosis,	6	4	1	20.	2	13	3	23.
All diseases and conditions except tuberculosis.	7	1	2	19.	3	10	3	22.

<u>1951.</u>								
Tuberculosis,	3	14	1	9.	1	14	1	27.
All diseases and conditions except tuberculosis.	8	0	2	10.	3	17	3	2.

<u>1950.</u>								
Tuberculosis,	5	6	2	1.	1.	15	3	0.
All diseases and conditions except tuberculosis.	2	14	3	2.	2	19	0	2.

CONDEMNATION ANALYSIS, 1952.

		Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.
Tuberculosis ..	(Meat,	5.	5.	3.	20.
	{	-	18.	2.	0.
	{		- Nil	-	
	{				
	{Offal,	2.	4.	0.	14.
	{	-	9.	3.	9.
All diseases and conditions except tuberculosis ...	{		- Nil	-	
	{				
	{(Meat,	4.	13.	2.	3.
	{	2.	0.	0.	2.
	{	-	8.	0.	14.
	{				
	{Offal	3.	0.	0.	5.
	{	-	8.	2.	24.
	{	-	2.	0.	21.
	{				

Total Condemnations - Meat and Offal.

	<u>Tons.</u>	<u>Cwts.</u>	<u>Qrs.</u>	<u>Lbs.</u>
1952,	19.	11.	0.	0.
1951,	17.	7.	0.	20.
1950,	12.	16.	0.	5.

	<u>1952.</u>	<u>1951.</u>	<u>1950.</u>
Number of carcasses found with Cysticercus Bovis lesions ...	1.	7.	1.

From the figures above it will be seen that there is still a lot to do to clear the nations livestock of T.B. and Liver fluke, which still account for heavy losses, particularly Liver fluke, which accounts for the larger part of the condemnations of bovine livers. To give some idea of the distances livestock are carried before killing we received animals during 1952 from Rugby, Leicester, Ireland, Leighton Buzzard, Worcester, Northampton, and all the markets in Norfolk, and most of those in Suffolk. When one considers that of the meat killed and inspected in Diss, from all these markets, only 24% is consumed in the Urban District, one can realise that duties and responsibilities imposed on the Council and its officers by centralised slaughtering are very heavy indeed.

Before closing on this subject, I should like to add that the co-operation of the various Managers at the Slaughterhouse has very much helped me in the carrying out of my duties there. In particular I should like to mention the present Manager, Mr. Robertson, who has gone out of his way to make the job as easy as possible, under difficult circumstances. The Council have also materially helped by their decision to purchase a set of numbered discs, to assist in identifying small offals with it's proper carcass, when these discs are in full operation they will be a great help.

OFFICE RECORDS.

Certain difficulties have been felt during the year in connection with the various records and registers this Council is required to keep in the P.H. Dept. The Register of Factories is about 15 years old, and the Shops Register, to quote only two, is even older, going back to 1934/35., the other records are also old and require renewing, at the present time they are in the form of heavily bound books and are not suitable for use on inspections. I asked in the Annual Estimates for permission to renew these records and I hope that it will be possible to do this during the year. Accurate records are vital if I am to carry out my varied duties in an efficient manner.

I have the honour to present the above report of the duties carried out by myself from May until Dec. 31st. 1952, and by your previous Sanitary Inspector, Mr.L.G.Stribley, from January until 31st March, 1952.

DENNIS J, HEWETT.

Sanitary Inspector,
Diss Urban District Council.

June 17th. 1953.

